

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06015 071224Z  
ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 MMO-01 /013 W  
-----085694 071249Z /45  
O 071200Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3431

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 6015

FOR SCA ADMINISTRATOR BARBARA WATSON FROM SULLIVAN

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: CGEN, IR, AFSP, APER  
SUBJ: CONSULAR STAFFING

REF: TEHRAN 03499, STATE 092963, TEHRAN 03413, TEHRAN A-78

1. I HAD, OF COURSE, BEEN BRIEFED BEFORE COMING HERE ON OUR CONSULAR OPERATION, THE HORRENDOUS FACILITIES IN WHICH IT IS HOUSED AND OUR CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL TO ADEQUATELY MEET OUR STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS. NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED ME, HOWEVER, FOR THE REALITY I FOUND ON ARRIVING. SINCE I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN HERE AND SEEN FOR YOURSELF WHAT WE HAVE TO CONTEND WITH, AT LEAST AS FAR AS OUR FACILITIES ARE CONCERNED, I WILL NOT DWELL ON THIS POINT OTHER THAN TO NOTE THAT A RAY OF LIGHT HAS DAWNED RECENTLY AND WE HAVE SOME HOPE OF A NEW OFFICE BUILDING FOR OUR CONSULATE BEING CONSTRUCTED ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. PERSONNEL SHORTAGES PERSIST, HOWEVER. A DEPOLORABLE SITUATION HAS BECOME EVEN MORE SO IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN MAY OF LAST YEAR WE ISSUED 4,679 NIVS, IN MAY OF THIS YEAR 9,362. IN JUNE OF 1976 WE ISSUED 9,072, THIS PAST MONTH WE ISSUED OVER 13,000. THE LINES OUTSIDE OUR CONSULATE BUILDING ARE GROWING EVER LONGER AND WAITS OF UP  
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TO NINE HOURS BEFORE AN APPLICANT CAN BE INTERVIEWED BY A VISA OFFICER ARE NOT UNUSAL. THE NEGATIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS SITUATION IS ALARMING. THE OBVIOUS WEAR AND TEAR ON OUR DEDICATED OFFICERS WHO ARE REGULARLY WORKING NUMEROUS OVERTIME DAYS IS BECOMING INTOLERABLE. WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE DO THROUGH ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT OF QUALIFIED OFFICERS FROM OTHER EMBASSY SECTIONS BUT THIS MEANS DIMINISHED

ATTENTION TO OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS. LEAVE SCHEDULES HAVE SUFFERED AND INDEED NO LEAVE AT ALL IS FORESEEN FOR ANY OF OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS DURING THE BALANCE OF OUR THREE TO FOUR MONTH PEAK SEASON. THE CHIEF OF SECTION IS LEAVING ON TRANSFER IN A WEEK AND THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL WILL NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

3. OBVIOUSLY WE NEED HELP BADLY AND WE NEED IT NOW. OUR MOST PRESSING IMMEDIATE NEED IS FOR TWO TDY OFFICERS, PERSIAN LANGUAGE QUALIFIED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THE REGIONAL BUREAU SEEMS NOT TO HAVE ADEQUATE PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO MEET THIS NEED. MY THOUGHT IS THAT IT BE ADDRESSED ON THE BASIS OF GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU COULD DO IN THIS RESPECT.

4. OUR LONGER TERM NEEDS HAVE BEEN SPELLED OUT AND DOCUMENTED IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGES. WE WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THIS AFTER OUR NEW CONSUL GENERAL HAS HAD A CHANCE TO SIZE UP THE SITUATION AND SUBMIT HIS OWN THOUGHTS. IT WOULD NOT HURT TO REVIEW THE RECORD AT THIS TIME HOWEVER.

5. IN ANTICIPATION OF A PROMPT FAVORABLE RESPONSE. WARM REGARDS.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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